REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, 16, and 18 are amended as shown above. Claims 5-9 and 13-15 were previously canceled. New claims 19-28 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4, 10-12 and 16-28 are pending. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Interview Substance

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Huynh for the courtesies she extended at an Examiner interview conducted on December 4, 2006. At the interview, claim amendments and arguments were discussed. Examiner Huynh indicated that further search and analysis would be performed.

Objections to the Specification

The specification is objected to as consisting of more than 300 lines of code. Applicant respectfully defers submission of a CD-ROM pending indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 12 and 18 have been amended as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 12 and 18 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Although applicants disagree with the Office Action's position, claims 12 and 18 have been amended as requested by the Office Action. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 12

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0178249 A1 issued to Prabakaran et al. (hereinafter "Prabakaran") in view of Beadles (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0154404). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a group policy object including a first plurality of settings configured and applied to a computing environment and a second plurality of settings not configured and applied to a computing environment. Claim 1 also recites displaying a report containing only settings configured and applied to a computing environment. Prabakaran fails to teach or suggest these features.

Prabakaran discloses displaying a list of all group policy objects (FIG. 1), a user selecting a group policy object from the displayed list and requesting the generation of an HTML report that lists the selected group policy object(s) from the displayed list. During the examiner interview on December 4, 2006, the examiner indicated that the user selection of a group policy object is interpreted as "configuring" the group policy object.

However, the "configuring" as construed by the examiner refers to "configuring" the HTML report (but not the settings of the group policy objects themselves). This is not the same as configuring settings in a group policy object. To clarify, claim 1 has been amended to recite a group policy object containing a plurality of settings that are configured and applied to a computing environment and a second plurality of settings that are not configured and applied to a computing environment. The first subset of

settings is collected and combined into a document for a report containing only settings configured and applied to a computing environment.

Claim 1 recites that only settings that are configured and applied to a computing environment are included in a report as opposed to Prabakaran, which discloses selection of a group policy object and including selected group policy object in a report whether or not the group policy object has settings that are configured and applied to a computing environment or not. Thus, merely selecting an object from a list of objects is not equivalent to "configuring" settings that are configured and applied to a computing environment.

Even assuming *arguendo* that the Office Action's interpretation that merely selecting a group policy object from a list of group policy object is equivalent to "configuring" the settings in the group policy object, the "configuring" would, at best, refer to "configuring" a report to include the selected object. As one of ordinary skill in the art would understand, "configuring" a report to list a selected object is not equivalent to "configuring" settings as applied in a computing environment.

The Office Action further asserts that Prabakaran at paragraphs [0024], [0040]–[0043], [0046], [0051], and FIG. 1 discloses claim 1 except for "according to a predefined schema". However, contrary to the Office Action's assertion, Prabakaran fails to teach or suggest claim 1 in the cited paragraphs or anywhere in the entire reference.

At paragraph [0024] and FIG. 1, Prabakaran discloses a user interface 1 in which a user may backup a group policy object. Specifically, a user selects a group policy object from the user interface and selects a "Backup" option (element 9, FIG. 1). The selected group policy object is then stored in a backup folder as a result (see Prabakaran [0024]–[0025]).

Prabakaran (paragraph [0024] and FIG. 1) fails to teach or suggest collecting settings from a group policy object, combining the settings into a markup language document or displaying the report created from the markup language document in

paragraph [0024] or FIG. 1. Nor does Prabakaran teach or suggest including only configured settings in the displayed report. Indeed, the policy object already exists in Prabakaran and is merely stored in a backup folder responsive to a user command.

At paragraphs [0040]-[0043], Prabakaran discloses storing the policy object's data in a directory or on an external network location (paragraph [0040]). The data may be stored in HTML format (paragraph [0043]). Policy object information may be displayed (paragraph [0041]).

However, Prabakaran at paragraphs [0040]-[0043] fails to teach or suggest collecting settings from a first group policy object, collecting settings from a second group policy object, combining the settings into a markup language document and displaying the report containing only settings configured and applied to a computing environment. Rather, Prabakaran merely discloses storing data in HTML format and fails to teach or suggest including only settings configured and applied to a computing environment in a displayed report.

At paragraph [0046], Prabakaran discloses creating and organizing objects under a unit called Domain. Multiple domains may exist in a "forest." At paragraph [0051], Prabakaran discloses receiving a user/machine combination and group policies applicable to the user based on the location of the user object. The policies are processed based on "LSDOU." These paragraphs are unrelated to claim 1.

The Office Action relies on Beadles for supposedly disclosing "according to a predefined schema." Even assuming *arguendo* that the Office Action's assertion regarding Beadles is correct, Beadles still fails to teach or suggest any feature of claim 1 as set forth above. To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim features must be taught or suggest by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). In the present case, Prabakaran and Beadles, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each of the claim features as set forth above.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, and 12 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, and 12 is respectfully requested.

Claim 2

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prabakaran and Beadles in view of Dennis (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,932) and Sanghvi (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0095524). Claim 2 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prabakaran and Beadles in view of Sanghvi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1. As set forth above, Prabakaran and Beadles, either alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest claim 1. Dennis and/or Sanghvi fails to cure the deficits of Prabakaran and Beadles.

Dennis and/or Sanghvi, either alone or in combination with Prabakaran and/or Beadles, fails to teach or suggest claim 1. Nor does the Office Action assert that Dennis and/or Sanghvi does. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 10

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prabakaran and Beadles in view of Boehme (U.S. Patent No. 6,578,192). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 depends from claim 1. As set forth above, Prabakaran and Beadles, either alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest claim 1. Boehme fails to cure the deficits of Prabakaran and Beadles.

Boehme, either alone or in combination with Prabakaran and/or Beadles, fails to teach or suggest claim 1. Nor does the Office Action assert that Boehme does. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 11

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prabakaran, Beadles, and Boehme in further view of Knight (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0083453). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 depends from claim 1. As set forth above, Prabakaran, Beadles, and Boehme, either alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest claim 1. Knight fails to cure the deficits of Prabakaran and Beadles.

Knight, either alone or in combination with Prabakaran, Beadles and Boehme, fails to teach or suggest claim 1. Nor does the Office Action assert that Knight does. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-18

Claims 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beadles in view of Prabakaran. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16, as amended, recites identifying a first plurality of settings and a second plurality of settings in the resultant set of policy settings based on the schema, the first plurality of settings being configured and applied to a computing environment and the second plurality of settings not being configured and applied to a computing environment and outputting a list of the first plurality of settings, the list omitting the second plurality of settings.

As set forth above, neither Beadles nor Prabakaran, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests these features. In particular, Prabakaran merely discloses a user selecting a group policy object and "configuring" the selected group policy object to be displayed in a report. However, Prabakaran fails to teach or suggest configuring settings of a group policy object that is configured and applied to a computing environment and including only settings that are "configured" and applied to a computing environment in a report. Likewise, Beadles fails to teach or suggest these features.

Because Beadles and Prabakaran, either alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest claim 16, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 16. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17 and 18 is respectfully requested.

New Claims 19-28

New claims 19-28 are believed to be allowable over the cited references.

NOTE re Notice of Reference (PTO-892)

Applicant notes that the reference to Marl et al., US2003/0126236 listed on page 13 of the office action is not listed on the Notice of Reference Cited PTO-892. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to issue an updated PTO-892 including the Marl reference.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above

Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.
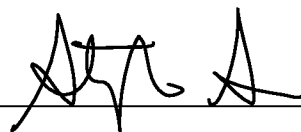
Respectfully submitted,

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                                          _____Noemi Tovar_____
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